

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Oak Woodland and Prairie Restoration

LOCATION: Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve
Austin Creek State Recreation Area

COUNTY: Sonoma

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

Selectively remove Douglas-fir seedlings, saplings, and poles and occasional seed trees from locations threatened by loss of habitat (oak woodlands and prairies) and significant fuel loading within Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve and Austin Creek State Recreation Area. The project is long-term. Treatment areas are prioritized according to areas that face the most likely loss of habitat. Treatments include hand removal, mechanical removal and chemical control (manizpur). Seedlings, saplings and poles will be lopped and scattered. Occasional seed trees may be girdled by chainsaw or receive a basal bark treatment. All mechanical work will be accomplished between September 1 and January 31 to avoid impacts to northern spotted owl. Trees containing nesting birds will not be removed. No mature trees (> 28cm) will be felled. Future projects onsite could include the introduction of prescribed fire; if so those projects would be further evaluated under CEQA. In the event that previously undocumented cultural resources are encountered during project construction (including but not limited to dark soil containing shellfish, bone, flaked stone, groundstone, or deposits of historic trash), work within the immediate vicinity of the find will be temporarily halted or diverted until a DPR-qualified cultural resource specialist has evaluated the find and implemented appropriate treatment and disposition of the artifact(s). Project protects and preserves natural resources.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation
NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Russian River District

EXEMPT STATUS: ☒ Categorical Exemption Class: 4 Section: 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of minor alterations in the condition of land and vegetation which will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, included as "resource management projects" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

CONTACT: Brendan O'Neil
Russian River District

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Todd Thames, District Superintendent

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